

**NORTH MILL CREEK/DUTCH GAP CANAL
WATERSHED PLANNING MEETING
JULY 29, 2:30 TO 4:30 PM**

This meeting summary and all meeting materials can be found at www.lakecountyil.gov/Stormwater/LakeCountyWatersheds/NorthMill.htm

1. Introductions & Announcements

Patty Werner, Planning Supervisor, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) welcomed new and returning stakeholders. This was followed by meeting participants introducing themselves. A list of the meeting attendees is included with this report.

Patty also invited the stakeholders to the Riparian Landowners Workshop on September 18th in Winthrop Harbor, IL. An informational sheet was handed out and additional information can be found at <http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Stormwater/Documents/Planning/Dead%20River/2010/2010RipWrkshp.pdf>

2. Review and accept July 29th meeting summary

There were no comments on the July 29 meeting summary and it was accepted by consensus.

3. "Get To Know" Sunflower Farms

Sunflower Farms is a large property that has recently been annexed into the Village of Bristol. Approximately 35 acres of the property is built out and is an equestrian facility. The facility has a full range of facilities and services including 150 boarding stalls, 7 barns, indoor and outdoor arenas, and a dedicated training staff. Another 170 acres of the property is being proposed as a residential development that will incorporate the equestrian lifestyle of the farm. Its design also proposes to preserve the natural areas surrounding the subdivision. The project is currently going through the approval process with the presiding regulatory agencies.

4. Presentations followed by questions/comments regarding;

a. Natural Areas Inventory - Ken Klick, Restoration Ecologist with Lake County Forest Preserve District

Ken conducted an interactive GIS presentation where he was able to show the stakeholders the aerial photography of the watershed. Ken stated that the watershed now has about 1/100th of the original native landscape remaining. The 1830 landscape history was based upon public land surveys and was largely forested (oak / hickory savannas containing about 30 trees / acre) and wet prairie with relatively small amount of heavy forest areas. There were not large areas of native plants in the landscape.

The watershed today does contain very unique natural areas. Wisconsin has Mud Lake fen, although it is an area of concern due to the changing

landscape. Illinois has Ethel's Woods, which is a large forest area of about 200-300 acres and the Red Wing Slough (under protection by the state), which is significant for rare bird species. The Antioch Bog south of Route 173 no longer exists.

Through the GIS demonstration, Ken was able to show the stakeholders photographic signatures for natural areas. For instance, he was able to display an area that had a plant community in a wetland area that was becoming surrounded by reed canary grass, cattails, and purple loosestrife.

b. *Open Space Inventory and Green Infrastructure Network– Mike Prusila with Lake County Stormwater Management Commission*

The Issues and Opportunities generated by the stakeholders at the previous watershed meetings showed that open space was a high priority topic, as it is an important component for "quality of life" and preservation of natural resources. Mike reviewed the open space inventory that has been conducted for the North Mill Creek / Dutch Gap Canal Watershed. It shows that 45% of the watershed is open space while 38% is partially open space. Most of this open and partially open space is privately-owned.

As a part of the open space inventory, an inventory of high quality natural resources is also conducted. SMC then overlays the mapped natural areas components and the open space inventory to create a map of a watershed green infrastructure network.

Green infrastructure can exist at both the individual site level and the watershed scale. Site-level or neighborhood-level green infrastructure includes best management practices (such as naturalized detention facilities, vegetated swales, porous pavements, rain gardens and green roofs) that are designed to maintain natural hydrologic functions by absorbing and infiltrating precipitation where it falls. On the regional or watershed scale, green infrastructure consists of the interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas (such as forested areas, floodplains and wetlands, greenways, parks and forest preserves) that mitigate stormwater runoff, naturally recharge aquifers, improve water quality while providing recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat. Green infrastructure networks do not HAVE to be concentrated on water resources, but it is logical and appropriate to do so in a watershed plan. A copy of Mike's presentation can be found at www.lakecountyl.gov/Stormwater/LakeCountyWatersheds/NorthMill.htm

5. *Goal Statements*

Stakeholders were asked to review the draft goal statements. The watershed planning team will incorporate the comments and send revised goal statements prior to the next meeting. A summary of the comments can be found on the next page:

- 1) Reduce flood damage to structures and infrastructure and the increasing flooding of farmland, and prevent flood damage from worsening in the watershed.

Outcome: reduction in flood damage to structures and infrastructure and reduction in farmland flooding

- Most Important
- Bristol needs Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO) – like ordinance provisions
- What is the forest preserve’s policy on drain tile?
- Prioritize where possible to restore natural community types verses hard engineered to manage water

- 2) Improve water quality by eliminating present impairments and non-point source pollution in lakes, streams and wetlands; and protect water quality by implementing land development and management practices that prevent pollution.

Outcome: water bodies are not impaired and future pollution is prevented

- Combine 2 and 3 (mentioned 2 times)
- Conservation of soils in agricultural areas is key here

- 3) Protect, enhance and restore the physical, biological, and chemical health of stream and lake ecosystems.

Outcome is to have healthy lakes and streams

- Combine 2 and 4 into #3 as 2 and 4 are “ways” to meet goal #3
- Outcome should include improvement to wetland habitat (mentioned 2 times)
- Result of doing no project

- 4) Protect, enhance & restore natural resources through the expansion of preserved open space areas as green infrastructure reserves, maintaining hydrology and buffers for high quality areas, and employing good natural resource management practices.

Outcome: natural resources are protected, enhanced, or restored

- PEL maintain and restore connections, environmental corridor
- Funding?
- Key to protection is long term measure to protect watershed
- Is there a role for sustainable agriculture in this watershed?

- 5) Use a system of both site level stormwater green infrastructure practices and regional greenways to protect and connect natural resource areas.

Outcome: site level and regional green infrastructure system is established

- “Site Level” should be “Site Specific”
- Get Village of Bristol to adopt a more “WDO” stormwater / wetlands / buffer approach

- 6) Guide new development design and practices to protect or enhance existing water resources, natural resources and open space.

Outcome: New development occurs without impairing water resources, natural resources, and open space

- Get Village of Bristol to adopt a more “WDO” stormwater / wetlands / buffer approach
- Guide?or have legislation / ordinances in place?
- Rid waterways of algae and other undesirable plants

- 7) Provide watershed stakeholders with knowledge, skills and motivation needed to implement the watershed plan. Watershed stakeholders include (but are not limited to) residents, property owners, government agencies and jurisdictions, and developers.

Outcome: stakeholders have adequate information to implement the watershed plan

- Get Village of Bristol to adopt a more “WDO” stormwater / wetlands / buffer approach
- How? By who?
- Financial resources or knowledge of how one might acquire those resources
- Add to Outcome “and availability of resources”

- 8) Encourage watershed stakeholder participation in farmland preservation programs and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices that protect or enhance watershed resources, water quality and reduce flood damages.

Outcome: The plan encourages farmland preservation and sustainable agriculture practices that protect/enhance watershed resources and reduce flooding

- Get Village of Bristol to adopt a more “WDO” stormwater / wetlands / buffer approach

General Comments:

- Develop a trail system for use by area residents for recreation and education of watershed area, plants, and animals. Outcome: the plan encourages protecting that allows of area residents to access for education and recreation.
- Goals overlap too much

6. Development of Green Infrastructure Prioritization

Patty introduced the stakeholders to the concept of SMU's (subwatershed management units)

SAMPLE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

Green Infrastructure Prioritization

Criteria used to prioritize parcels for each of the project goals.

Criteria	Flood Prevention & Reduction	Natural Resources Protection & Enhancement	Water Quality Improvement	Stream or Streambank Restoration/ Preservation
1. Parcels that intersect 100-year floodplain – There was discussion that since the 100 year floodplain already floods, there may be no extra benefit from including “Flood Prevention and Reduction” as a goal. There were suggestions to increase it to the 500-year floodplain.	X			X
2. Parcels within 0.5-miles of the headwaters	X	X	X	
3. Parcels that intersect with a wetland	X	X	X	
4. Parcels that are adjacent to or include at least 2.5 acres of drained hydric soils [Minimum 10 acres of drained hydric soils for Indian Creek and North Branch watersheds] – much of Kenosha County is hydric, may want to consider 20 acres (SMC to run 10 acres and 25 acres and see if there is a large difference)	X	X	X	
5. Parcels in an Subwatershed Management Unit where less than 10% of the SMU is existing wetland	X		X	
6. Parcels within 0.5-mile radius of Lake County Stormwater Management Committee known flood problem area	X			
7. Parcels that are within 400 300 feet of a watercourse or lake	X	X	X	X

August 26, 2010 Meeting Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Company
Anderson	James L.	Lake County Forest Preserve Dist.
Burt	Randy	NeuHaven HOA Beautification Committee
Chefalo	Thomas J.	Lake County Planning, Bldg. & Dev.
Dicke	Faith M.	East Shore Crooked Lake
Elfering	Noel	Town of Bristol
Francis	Sandy	31st Senatorial District
Girmscheid	Tim	Liberty Prairie Conservancy
Heimbrodt	Dennis	Village of Antioch
Hunley	Joseph	
Kerkman	Randall	Town of Bristol
Klick	Ken	Lake County Forest Preserve Dist.
Knysz	Peter M.	Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
Leker	Chris	Farmer
May	Phil	Sunflower Farm
McCarthy	Jodi	Lake County Stormwater Mgmt.
Mosca	Vincent J.	Hey & Associates, Inc.
Prusila	Michael E.	Lake County Stormwater Mgmt.
Rankin	William & Vi	
Renwick	Jim	Renwick Nursery
Treloar	Dan	Kenosha County
Welsh	Wesley	Village of Lindenhurst
Werner	Patricia	Lake County Stormwater Mgmt.
Wilson	Don	Friends of IL Beach
Yamin	Yamin A.	James Anderson Company, Inc.